



MDOT **PRESS RELEASE**

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MDOT begins work on third and final year of I-94 widening project in Kalamazoo

April 7, 2008 -- The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is gearing up for the third and final year of the \$68 million reconstruction project to widen and reconstruct I-94 from west of US-131 to east of Oakland Drive. Work also includes the reconstruction of the US-131/I-94 interchange.

Although work has been ongoing all winter, crews are now doing prep work in order to safely shift all traffic to the newly reconstructed westbound lanes, where two lanes will be maintained in each direction at all times. Once traffic is shifted, crews will begin to reconstruct and widen eastbound I-94 to three lanes. This traffic shift is scheduled for Saturday, April 12. To facilitate this work, a number of lane closures and ramp closures will be required:

- The ramp from westbound I-94 to southbound US-131 is closed and will remain closed throughout the 2008 construction season.

- The ramp from northbound US-131 to westbound I-94 is closed and will remain closed throughout the 2008 construction season.

- There will be nighttime lane closures on east- and westbound I-94 starting April 7 to remove and relocate barrier wall throughout the project. These lane closures will take place between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m.

-The ramp from southbound US-131 to westbound I-94 will remain open. However, there will be short-duration closures between April 7 and April 12 to relocate the barrier wall along this ramp.

-The ramp from Oakland Drive to eastbound I-94 will close approximately April 12 and will remain closed until mid-August.

-The ramp from eastbound I-94 to northbound US-131 will close approximately April 12 and remain closed throughout the 2008 construction season.

-The ramp from southbound US-131 to eastbound I-94 is currently open, but will require a closure to construct the temporary ramp. This closure will be in effect from April 12 to April 30. A truck detour for this ramp will be in place throughout the remainder of the construction season.

-The ramp from northbound US-131 to eastbound I-94 will close approximately April 12 and remain closed throughout the 2008 construction season.

-The ramp from eastbound I-94 to southbound US-131 will close approximately April 12 and remain closed throughout the 2008 construction season.

-The ramp from Oakland Drive to westbound I-94 will remain open, but will be reduced to one lane throughout the 2008 construction season.

-The ramp from eastbound I-94 to Oakland Drive will be closed for one week to install a pipe under the ramp. This is tentatively scheduled for the first week of June, and the ramp will remain open at all other times during the construction season.

The following two ramps will remain open:

-The ramp from westbound I-94 to Oakland Drive will remain open.

-The ramp from westbound I-94 to northbound US-131 will remain open.

"Work is also continuing on the construction of the new I-94 bridges over northbound and southbound US-131," said Pete Pfeiffer, manager of MDOT's Transportation Service Center in Kalamazoo. "Once this project is complete, motorists will see a vast improvement in the way the I-94/US-131 interchange operates."

All lanes are scheduled to be reopened by November 2008.

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